

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01971 180642Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03 INT-05
COME-00 DLOS-09 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /070 W
-----053505 180650Z /11

O 180612Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5382
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SUVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 01971

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLOS, EFIS
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY (SPRFA)

REF: (A) STATE 95661, (B) SUVA 600

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DISCUSS REFTEL A WITH CHRIS BEEBE AS DEPARTMENT HAD REQUESTED DUE TO BEEBE'S ABSENCE FROM WELLINGTON IN PREPARATION FOR HIS IMMINENT DEPARTURE TO ASSUME GNZ AMBASSADORSHIP IN TEHRAN. THE TRAVEL PLANS OF MORRIS BUSBY AND PARTY THROUGH SUVA, HONIARA AND PORT MORESBY TO GENEVA HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH PAUL COTTON, HEAD, PACIFIC DIVISION, MFA. BASED ON THE CONVERSATION WITH COTTON, EMBASSY REGRETS TO ADVISE BUSBY THAT BEEBE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO COORDINATE ANY OF THE SPRFA DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA, NOR TO MEET WITH BUSBY AT ANY OF THE FOUR STOPS EN ROUTE
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TO GENEVA. FURTHERMORE, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE GNZ HAS NO HELPFUL SUGGESTION FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION (SPEC) IN THE GENEVA DISCUSSIONS.

2. WITH RESPECT TO FIJI'S APPARENT SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE SPRFA, COTTON SAYS THAT HE WOULD NOT DISAGREE

WITH EMBASSY SUVA'S ASSESSMENT (REFTEL B) THAT FIJI MAY INDEED BE "KITE FLYING," BUT HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVES THE FIJIANS ARE RESERVING THEIR FINAL COMMENTS TO SPEC PENDING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FULL DISCUSSIONS OF THE U.S. POSITION WITH BUSBY.

3. NZ MFA ADVISED EMBASSY TODAY OF A FURTHER FLY IN THE OINTMENT. ACCORDING TO THE NEW ZEALANDERS, PRESIDENT DOWIYOGO OF NAURU HAS, IN A LETTER TO SPEC'S MAHE, FORMALLY REJECTED THE TWO-TREATY APPROACH SUGGESTED BY PAPUA NEW GUINEA. DOWIYOGO HAS FURTHER STATED THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO ACCEPT THE TWO-TREATY APPROACH SIMPLY TO ENABLE US PARTICIPATION AND, ACCORDING TO MFA, HE EXPRESSED SUSPICIONS THAT THE US WILL UTILIZE THE TWO-TREATY APPROACH TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF THE FORUM COUNTRIES. IN REPEATED STRONG TERMS DOWIYOGO HAS CONCLUDED TO MAHE THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE FORUM SHOULD MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS ON THE ISSUE OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES TO ENABLE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE US. (FYI: NZ EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON SHOULD HAVE RECEIVED A FULL COPY OF THIS REPORT AND THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM IT. END FYI.)

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: IN SUM, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE GNZ CAN CONTINUE TO PROVIDE USEFUL INFORMATION TOWARDS
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THE FORMATION OF AN ACCEPTABLE (FROM US POINT OF VIEW) SPRFA, BUT IT IS APPARENT THAT IT IS UNABLE AT THIS JUNCTURE TO PROVIDE THE TYPE OF COORDINATION WHICH WOULD ASSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE UPCOMING SUVA MEETING. COTTON IS INCREASINGLY PESSIMISTIC THAT SUCCESS CAN COME OF THE SUVA MEETING AND MURMURED IN DISCUSSIONS TODAY WITH EA/ANP DIRECTORY ED HURWITZ AND EMBOFF THAT PERHAPS IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR NO MEETING TO TAKE PLACE THAN ONE IN WHICH PROGRESS COULD NOT BE GUARANTEED. IN THE EMBASSY'S VIEW, BUSBY AND PARTY WILL HAVE A BETTER APPRECIATION FOR THE POTENTIAL FOR SUCCESS OF THE SUVA MEETING FOLLOWING THEIR DISCUSSIONS IN THE PACIFIC AND IN GENEVA, THAN THE GNZ OR FISH-ERIES CHAIRMAN, BEEBE CAN BE EXPECTED TO HAVE. SELDEN

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Disposition History: n/a
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